

# **SUPERFUND**

## **Fact Sheet**

**BUNKER HILL  
KELLOGG, IDAHO**



U S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

APRIL 2000

*Cleanup work continues into Spring 2000 at the Bunker Hill site. Several major projects are underway, including building a new storm drain system, a pilot study of indoor dust, and capping the Central Impoundment Area. The following is a summary of what will be happening during the upcoming field season.*

### **CIA Work to be Completed this Year**

A major effort this year will be the capping of the Central Impoundment Area (CIA), the largest contaminant disposal site at Bunker Hill. This will be a significant accomplishment because it will prevent water from seeping into the contaminants and prevent the contaminants from being disbursed by wind or other means.

Last summer, ITC Corporation (ITC) was selected to close the CIA. ITC will resume work on site this Spring and will cap the CIA with a plastic liner, soil, and finally grass seed. Over 300,000 cubic yards of topsoil will be used in the capping, which is expected to be finished by October 15, 2000. Approximately 20 locally-hired workers will be on the ITC construction team. **Contact: Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.**

### **New Cleanup Work**

The portion of Government Gulch that runs from the Silver Valley Lab to Interstate 90 will be cleaned up. This lower portion of Government Creek will be moved from its present path through the lumberyard to a path that follows the alignment of Government Gulch road straight to the Interstate. At the Interstate, a new path will be constructed to parallel Interstate 90 and carry the creek west to the culvert that goes under the freeway. This project will also include capping the Mine Timber, Inc. lumberyard and Asarco properties located in the vicinity of the old and new creek alignments.

This year, removal of contaminated tailings will continue along the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River upstream of Theater Bridge in Kellogg. This project began in 1999 and will be completed in 2000. **Contact: Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.**

### **New Storm Drain System South of I-90**

A storm drain system will be built for the properties located south of Interstate 90, between Page Ponds and the Smelterville off-ramp. After a meeting with local landowners, the storm drain system was identified for construction. At that meeting, the community expressed an interest in building a storm drain system that would carry water away from contaminated tailings, instead of removing the contaminated tailings. The Silver Valley Economic and Development Corporation plans to build a business park in the area. EPA and the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality saw this as an opportunity to provide an environmental benefit as well as an economic development incentive for the community. In addition to building the storm drain system, several properties in the area of the system will be capped. **Contact: Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.**

### **Acid Mine Drainage Study**

EPA and its partners continue to study options for the long term management of acid mine drainage from the Bunker Hill mine. This includes reducing the amount of drainage being

produced and upgrading the current treatment plant. Recent efforts have focused on identifying, designing, and estimating costs for diverting surface water in the upper Milo Creek area and reducing water inflow into the mine. In addition, various mine water treatment technologies and processes are being tested for their ability to meet the draft Total Maximum Daily Load for dissolved cadmium, lead and zinc in surface waters of the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

**Contact:** *Mary Kay Voytilla, (206) 553-2712.*

### Planting News

This fall, helicopters will hydroseed more Bunker Hill hillsides. Cottonwood and willow seedlings will also be planted along the Government Creek alignment and the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River in the Smelterville Flats, in order to revegetate those waterways. Additionally, potted trees, larger than seedlings, will be planted throughout the Smelterville Flats area in order to enhance its recovery. **Contact:** *Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.*

### Five-Year Reviews

The draft Five-Year Review reports for both the populated and non-populated areas of the Bunker Hill site are nearly complete. Five-Year Reviews are a requirement of the Superfund program for sites where contaminants are left in place. During the Five-Year Review, EPA evaluates the effectiveness of cleanup activities to ensure that they are protecting human health and the environment. The draft reports will be available for public review and comment this spring. **Contacts:** *Non-Populated Area Five-Year Review -- Mary Kay Voytilla, (206) 553-2712; Populated Area Five-Year Review -- Sean Sheldrake, (206) 553-1220.*

### House Dust Study – Summer 2000

This summer, EPA and the State of Idaho will conduct a pilot study evaluating the effectiveness of different cleaning methods in reducing lead levels in indoor dust. The project will be

focused in Smelterville at residences where yard cleanups have already occurred. Dust samples will be taken immediately before and after the cleaning is done as well as six and 12 months after, to determine the longer term effectiveness of the cleaning methods. The project will be conducted during summer or early fall because this is when the most dust enters homes. We also hope to correlate the indoor dust data with the blood lead and other dust data collected by the State of Idaho and the Panhandle Health District each summer and early fall.

If you would like to review the workplan for the pilot study, please visit the information repositories or our website. **Contact:** *Sean Sheldrake, (206) 553-1220.*

### Blood Lead Screening News

Each year, the Panhandle Health District goes door-to-door in communities located within the Bunker Hill 21-square mile Box, providing blood lead screening services to children between the ages of nine months and nine years. After the initial screening, families of children with elevated blood lead levels are contacted to schedule private follow-up visits. The screening process begins in July, and results are available in the fall. **Contact:** *Jerry Cobb, (208) 783-0707.*

### Union Pacific Railroad Update

The Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way cleanup work through the Bunker Hill Superfund Site is mostly complete. Union Pacific has submitted a draft Operations and Maintenance Plan and is expected to request certification from the EPA that their obligations in the Superfund Site have been met. Union Pacific recently agreed to construct a paved recreational trail through the portions of the Superfund Site that are not already paved. This work will be part of the "Rails to Trails" agreement that UPRR recently signed with the State, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and EPA. **Contact:** *Mike Thomas, (208) 373-0318.*



### What is the Institutional Controls Program (ICP)?

The Bunker Hill ICP is a locally enforced set of regulations designed to ensure the integrity of clean soil and other protective barriers placed over contaminants left in place throughout the Box. The Panhandle Health District (PHD) adopted this program as part of its Environmental Health Code in February 1995. Permits are required for projects involving excavation, grading and some home interior work. Permits are issued free of charge. In addition, a number of services are also available to homeowners doing small projects. Clean soil and assistance with disposal of contaminated soil can be obtained at the PHD. If you would like to view a video explaining the ICP in further detail, please contact the PHD at (208) 783-0707.

### Site History

The Bunker Hill Box spans 21 square miles in the heart of the Silver Valley in northern Idaho. More than 6,000 people live within the Bunker Hill boundaries in the communities of Kellogg, Smelterville, Wardner, Pinehurst, Page, Ross Ranch, Montgomery Gulch and Elizabeth Park.

In 1983, Bunker Hill was added to the National Priorities List (NPL), a list of the nation's most hazardous waste sites. EPA has identified 17 private companies believed to be responsible for site cleanup, some of whom are working in partnership with EPA and the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to support cleanup.

Site cleanup began with early public property/park cleanups in 1986 and yard cleanups in 1989. The smelter complex cleanup project began in 1995.

Cleanup decisions are documented in two Records of Decision (RODs). In 1991, the Populated ROD was signed, covering residential and

commercial yard cleanup. In 1992, the Non-Populated ROD was signed, documenting cleanup decisions for the rest of Bunker Hill.

### How to Get Further Information

For more information about Bunker Hill and access to all related public documents, you can visit the following information repositories:

- Kellogg Public Library: 16 West Market, Kellogg, Idaho 83837  
(The Kellogg Public Library holds the entire administrative record -- other local libraries have site information, but do not contain all site files).
- Pinehurst/Kingston Library: 107 Main Street, Pinehurst, Idaho 83850
- EPA Region 10 Records Center: 1200 6th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101
- EPA Toll Free number (1-800-424-4372)

Please visit or call (208-783-5781) the Superfund Project Office located at 1005 W. McKinley Avenue in Kellogg for information, as well.

### Questions or Concerns?

If you have questions, please call Marianne Deppman, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator in Seattle, at 1-800-424-4372 or at (206) 553-1237, or Sean Sheldrake, EPA Project Manager, at (206) 553-1220. You can also contact Jerry Cobb at the Panhandle Health District in Kellogg at (208) 783-0707.

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers above.

*Web Surfing for EPA Region 10: Check out our homepage at:*  
**<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>**

EPA wants to provide you with useful environmental information. Please feel free to call, write or e-mail us to let us know how we can improve our fact sheets to suit your needs.

You can e-mail

Marianne Deppman at [deppman.marianne@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:deppman.marianne@epamail.epa.gov). We are exploring electronic distribution of future fact sheets. Would you like to be notified by email that this information is available on our web site?



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Environmental Protection  
Agency

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